

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03315 201534Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 /071 W

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R 201420Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3742

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: ADDIS PRIVATE SCHOOLS CLOSED

USAID OFFICER INFORMED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF FOLLOWING:

1. ADDIS STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE ETHIOPIAN SCHOOLS ARE ON
STRIKE AGAINST REQUIREMENT TO PAY THEIR QUARTERLY SCHOOL FEES.
STUDENTS ARGUE THAT SINCE THEIR FAMILIES' SOURCE OF INCOME HAVE
BEEN REDUCED TO SUBSISTENCE LEVEL BY LAND REFORM, THEY UNABLE TO
MEET SCHOOL FEES. FURTHERMORE, THEY ARGUE THAT UNDER ETHIOPIAN
SOCIALISM THE STATE SHOULD PROVIDE FREE EDUCATION TO ALL.

2. PRIVATE SCHOOL OPERATORS ARE REPLYING THAT THEY CANNOT PAY
STAFF, BUY SUPPLIES AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS WITHOUT STUDENTS'
FEES. ALSO PMAC UNWILLING TO NATIONALIZE THESE URBAN SCHOOLS IN
LIGHT ITS DEVELOPMENT FOCUS FOR RURAL MASSES WHO ONLY HAVE 10
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03315 201534Z

PERCENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT URBAN DWELLERS HAVE.

THIS, OPERATORS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CLOSE THEIR SCHOOLS.

3. OTHER SOURCES CLAIM THAT ADDITIONAL DEMANDS OF STUDENTS INCLUDE: RESIGNATION OF CAPTAIN KIROS AS ZAMETCHA COORDINATOR, IMMEDIATE RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE, AND ABOLITION OF THE "DIRG".

4. COMMENT: IF PMAC DOES NOT HANDLE SITUATION QUICKLY, THERE GOOD CHANCE THAT PRIVATE STUDENTS WILL RESORT TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND COERCION OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS TO JOIN IN PRESSURE ON PMAC TO MEET THEIR DEMANDS. BEFORE ZAMETCHA, ADDIS HAD 97,000 STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS AND 79,000 STUDENTS IN NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS03315
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750098-0680
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750334/aaaabeey.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDIS PRIVATE SCHOOLS CLOSED USAID OFFICER INFORMED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS OF
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006